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Sent: 11/28/2019 2:10:23 PM
To: Eoc, Epahq [Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov]
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX - Update #2

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EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX - Update #2

PORT NECHES, TX, NRC#1264987

US Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of 11/28/2019 9:05 AM

Overview: Early in the morning on November 27th, the National Response Center received a report about an explosion at TPC Group Facility in Port Neches, TX. The facility is regulated under the Risk Management Program. The explosion was felt for miles around, damaging homes and shops in the area.

At approximately 1400 CST on November 27th, a secondary explosion occurred. Residents within a four-mile radius of the facility have been ordered to evacuate. The on-site wastewater treatment plant is still without power. TPC is in the process of bringing generators on-site to power the pumps and transport the firefighting water from the storage ponds to the treatment plant. The plant continues to burn at this time.

EPA, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and TPC teams have been conducting air monitoring throughout the evacuation zone. The main compounds of concern are Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), and 1,3 Butadiene, although other chemicals may be involved. All air monitoring readings in the last operational period were below the action level for both VOCs and Butadiene.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, United States Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Civil Support Team are responding. In addition to TCEQ, many local and state departments are on site, including the Jefferson County Judge's Office, Port Neches Police Department, Texas Department of Emergency Management, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Port Neches Fire

Department, the Golden Triangle Incident Management Team, and the Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management.

EPA Actions: EPA is serving as the lead federal agency for response efforts. Two EPA Region 6 OSCs are on-site and another will arrive by 1200 CST. EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft conducted three flights on November 27th and will continue monitoring on November 28th. ASPECT did not report any detections at this time.

Media Interest: High

Media Links:

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/27/us/port-neches-plant-explosion/index.html>

<https://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/article/The-latest-Explosion-at-Port-Neches-plant-14866093.php>

<https://www.khou.com/article/news/explosions-rock-tpc-group-plant-in-port-neches-3-injured/285-61fc323e-90af-4b90-aec3-fd55dbe859a5>

The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

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